

## Reagan assails Moscow over missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan accused the Soviet Union on Friday of backtracking in negotiations on curbing medium-range nuclear missiles and urged Moscow "to come to terms on an equitable agreement." The president issued a statement marking the close of another round of negotiations in Geneva Thursday on reducing the medium-range weapons (see page 8). "Reagan criticised the Soviets for renegeing on an earlier commitment to exclude shorter-range missiles to the medium-range treaty. "The Soviets have backtracked from this (earlier) position and are now saying that the question of shorter-range INF missiles should be taken out of the current INF negotiations and be dealt with instead in separate negotiations," Mr. Reagan said. "This new Soviet position on shorter-range missiles would allow the Soviet Union a continued monopoly of these systems and would leave them free in to increase their existing force," he added. "This clearly is not acceptable to us or our allies." He said the "crucial issue" was whether Moscow would accept equal constraints on shorter-range missiles in the context of a medium-range agreement "or whether it will insist on maintaining superiority."

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## Dollar hits European low against yen

LONDON (AP) — The U.S. dollar fell in Europe Friday against all key currencies except the British pound, dropping to its lowest level against the Japanese yen since the late 1940s despite central-bank intervention. Gold prices jumped \$5 an ounce in Zurich and \$6.30 in Zurich. Silver bullion rose above \$6 an ounce for the first time in over a year. The dollar ended the week lower than all major currencies compared with last Friday's late rates. The dollar dropped to 147.65 yen in late London trading despite moves by the West German, French, Japanese and U.S. central banks to buy dollars in the open market to half the dollar's slide against the yen. The scale of the intervention was not known. The dollar fell in afternoon trading to 147.40 yen, pushed up to 147.90 yen after the banks had intervened, but then fell back again. "The sentiment is overwhelming that the dollar is going lower," said a foreign exchange dealer for a U.S. bank in London. Earlier, in Tokyo, the dollar closed at 149 yen, down from 149.40 yen at Thursday's close and 151.53 yen last Friday. The dollar dipped Tuesday to 148.80 yen, its lowest level since the late 1940s.

## King sends good wishes to Malaysia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday sent a cable of good wishes to the king of Malaysia, Sultan Iskandar, on the anniversary of his assuming constitutional powers. In his cable, King Hussein wished the Malaysian monarch health and happiness and more progress and prosperity for the Malaysian people.

## Sextuplets born in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian woman on Friday gave birth to sextuplets, the first such recorded case in Jordan. The sextuplets included two males and four females. Doctors from the Al Amal Maternity Hospital, where the delivery took place, said that two of the six babies were in "dangerous and critical condition" as their weights varied between 700 and 900 grammes. The doctors said the rate of occurrence for sextuplets was one per million. The mother had to undergo a Caesarean section which was supervised by gynaecologist Maher Al Sarraf, paediatrician Zafar Al Kaiati, and anaesthetist Maher Khirfan.

## Israel trying for ties with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday Israel was making efforts to establish diplomatic relations with China. Foreign ministry official Avraham Tamir was expected to meet China's ambassador to the United Nations over the weekend, a ministry spokesman said. Asked in a radio interview if Israel was on the verge of a breakthrough in establishing ties with China and the Soviet Union, Mr. Peres said: "Not yet. We are conducting what is called softening up activity... one should not talk of a breakthrough but of paving the way."

## Israel said selling \$800m arms to S. Africa

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel sells between \$600 and \$800 million worth of arms to South Africa a year, the Yediot Achronot newspaper said Friday. Quoting an unnamed foreign affairs news letter published in London, the mass circulation daily said the figures came from a U.S. presidential report which would be presented to Congress next week. Israeli newspapers generally rely on foreign news dispatches to report arms sales to Pretoria because military censors bar journalists from reporting on the issue from Israel.

## Crashes mar Thai air show

BANGKOK (AP) — Three air force F5-E fighter bombers crashed in heavy rain Friday as they were heading towards Bangkok for an air show, police reported. All three pilots were killed.

## Fighting flares anew at Bourj Al Barajneh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Mortar bombs and machinegun fire hit Beirut's Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp on Friday, killing one man and injuring two others, Palestinian sources said.

The sources said the firing came from Shite Amal militiamen manning positions around the camp of at least 12,000 people in southern Beirut.

Amal said the front lines were calm.

Six women were reported killed by mortar bombs in Bourj Al Barajneh on Thursday. They were among 150 women and children who marched to the camp's western entrance to protest at having to use an Amal-controlled "path of death" on the other side of the camp when they ventured out to buy food.

Amal said last month that it had lifted blockades of Bourj Al Barajneh and nearby Shatila camp. Some relief convoys have reached the camps since then, but others have been turned back.

Palestinians say snipers have killed at least 21 women in Beirut in our out of Bourj Al Barajneh on shopping trips.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has cabled Arab heads of state on Friday saying half a million refugees in Lebanon are facing a "war of extermination" led by Syria.

Mr. Arafat who was in Baghdad said: "It is clear that Syria, which intervened in west Beirut under the pretext of restoring security, had decided to starve our children to death and kill our women."

"A war of extermination is being launched against the Palestinians in Lebanon. They (Syrians) want half a million refugees killed or displaced," he said.

Text of the letter was made available to AP.

Syria dispatched an estimated

## Britain prefers U.N. action over Iran's missiles threat

KUWAIT (AP) — A British minister said his government would prefer the issue of Iran's deployment of missiles near the Strait of Hormuz to be resolved by the United Nations, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Friday.

Lord Trefgarne, the minister of state for defence procurements also told the agency that "we are very supportive of moves within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to provide for some sort of collective solution to the problem."

Saudi Arabia and the other five GCC members — Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — have been suffering from the offshoots of the Iran-Iraq war on their vital oil-shipping routes.

Clergyman says Iran will not close Hormuz, page 2

## Fahd starts private visit to U.K. after ending official talks

LONDON (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia began a private visit to Britain on Friday after concluding a three-day official visit during which he held talks with British government and opposition leaders.

King Fahd spent Thursday, the third and final full day of his state visit, in a round of meetings with senior opposition politicians.

King Fahd played host to leaders from the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties. On Wednesday, he talked with Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at her 10 Downing St. residence.

Saudi Arabia is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which has been limiting oil production to boost its price. Britain, also one of the world's largest oil producers but not an OPEC member, believes market forces should dictate the price of oil.

## Hostages' wives reject visiting Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — The Arab wives of two American hostages in Lebanon said Friday they would not visit Israel to discuss a swap of their husbands for Arab prisoners held there.

Jesse Turner, one of four professors kidnapped Jan. 24 from Beirut University College (BUC), said in a videotape released Thursday that fellow hostage Alain Steen was ill and had to leave.

Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh have been under a siege by Amal, Syria's main ally, since last November.

"Shatila's population is dying a slow death," Mr. Arafat told Arab leaders.

"There is no more water in the Beirut camp," he said. "What is happening will have very dangerous repercussions... it is a big catastrophe."

In another development, Syrian commandos killed three gunmen at a Syrian army checkpoint in west Beirut on Thursday and stepped up security after seven small bombs exploded in the city.

Police said two blasts went off in the mid-afternoon in garbage dumps. Five other bombs exploded in residential districts before dawn and in the morning.

The explosions set a car ablaze and shattered windows, with a million refugees in Lebanon are facing a "war of extermination" led by Syria.

Members of the Syrian army's crack special forces set up checkpoints across west Beirut and thoroughly frisked pedestrians.

Troops at a Syrian checkpoint in Ras Beirut's Manara street shot dead three unidentified gunmen who were equipped with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and two automatic rifles, police said. They gave no other details on the shootings.

The blasts brought to 12 the number of bomb attacks in west Beirut since the Syrian deployment.

"We urge our wives and families to go to America and Israel and press there because the keys of our issue are there. Moving in Lebanon is useless."

Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine said early this week it was prepared to free Mr. Steen if the United States succeeded in pressuring Israel into releasing 100 Arab prisoners.

Israel, however, has refused to negotiate with the hostage-holders and the United States has refused to try to pressure the Jewish state into accepting their offer.

Mrs. Turner said she wanted the four professors "to know that we want them to be released soon because we need them. We don't know how we can help them."

She said Mr. Steen's wife, Virginia Rose Steen, 30, was in a "terrible condition" after knowing of her husband's reported sickness.

Mr. Turner quoted an unnamed doctor who had allegedly examined Mr. Steen as saying the communications instructor "had a crisis in his blood pressure."

"The patient (Mr. Steen) says that as a child he was hit in his head while playing baseball and he was knocked unconscious," Mr. Turner quoted the doctor's report as saying.

The doctor thinks that the patient needs lab tests and (a) few X-ray photos especially (because), as the doctor says, the shock Alain received may influence his future," Mr. Turner said.

Mrs. Steen has confirmed that her husband was hit when he was younger by a baseball.

"We called the doctor about the statement and the medication in the statement. The doctor who was called in called for his immediate release so he can be in hospital," she said Thursday.

"Anybody under these medications should be in hospital," she said then, her eyes brimming with tears.

"Please, please release my husband," Mrs. Steen asked the kidnappers. She choked several times while talking to reporters.

The PFLP's apparent "flexibility," or, more accurately, ready-

## Bombs explode in West Bank after Israelis close 2 Palestinian campuses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A bomb exploded at a soldier's hitchhiking post in the occupied West Bank and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli bus, on Friday, causing no injuries. Two Palestinian campuses also were ordered closed for up to two weeks, the Israeli army said.

The actions were linked to the March 30 anniversary of the shooting deaths of six Arabs by policemen during protests in 1976 against Israeli land confiscations.

The blast occurred eight kilometers southwest of the West Bank city of Hebron, and soldiers immediately launched searches in the area, the army said, declining to elaborate.

On Thursday, the Israeli

occupation authorities on Thursday ordered two Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank to close temporarily in an attempt to avoid demonstrations at an annual anti-Israeli protest day next week.

Al Najah university in Nablus was ordered closed for two weeks from Saturday and the Vatican-funded Bethlehem University for five days from Friday, they said.

The move was aimed at preventing demonstrations by Palestinians on "Land Day" next Monday which marks the 11th anniversary of the fatal shooting by Israeli troops of six Arabs.

The 1976 violence erupted during demonstrations against the Israeli authorities' expropriation

of Arab-owned land in Galilee. Two other campuses, Birzeit and Al Rawda College in Nablus suspended classes in their own way for a week on March 24 to avoid violence. The four closures meant more than 7,000 students would be out of classes.

An American professor from the Birzeit went on trial Wednesday on charges of inciting anti-Israeli demonstrations, the army said.

Roger Heacock, 44, denied the charges in an Israeli military court and said he was arrested when he inadvertently was caught up in a group of Palestinian women protesting conditions of their brethren in Lebanon.

The trial continues on March

## Carter urges Israeli leaders to reciprocate Arab desire for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter urged Israeli leaders Friday to respond with flexibility to Arab moves for peace with the Jewish state.

Mr. Carter said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told him earlier this week "he would be very glad to talk directly to Israel under the umbrella of an international conference."

"I think this is a good indication that even Arab leaders who in the past have pledged their eternal hatred of Israel and total rejection of Israel are now in a much more receptive mood," Mr. Carter told AP.

"My hope is that the Israeli leaders will respond accordingly with a degree of flexibility and generosity and that the peace talks can be recommended," he said.

He made his statements during a tour of a communal farm in the southern Negev desert.

Mr. Carter has acknowledged the Middle East conflict was an "obsession" during his years in the presidency. In his current five-nation tour, he has been trying to give a boost to peace efforts which have been stymied since he brokered the 1979 accord between Israel and Egypt.

His statements in Arab capitals before he reached Israel that the

PLO should take part in an international conference were warmly greeted by Palestinians in the West Bank.

The East Jerusalem daily newspaper Al Quds commented: "This reflects Carter's understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Unfortunately such statements do not reflect the official American attitude."

Mr. Carter has said several times since his arrival that he hoped the United States would take as much interest in Arab-Israeli peace as he took during his time in office.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan has been reluctant to involve itself actively in the area since the failure of U.S. efforts to bring peace to Lebanon in 1982-83.

On U.S.-Israel relations, Mr. Carter told Abdu Eban, chairman of parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, the affair of U.S. spy analyst caught spying for Israel in Washington was embarrassing, but there was no "danger of any permanent damage to our relationship."

On the topic of an international conference, Mr. Carter told reporters Friday: "Everyone who

(Continued on page 3)

## U.S. group forced to give \$135,000 bond before entry to occupied territories

By Sa'ad G. Hattar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — A group of 28 black American pilgrims, who were denied entry to the occupied territories by the Israeli authorities on Thursday, crossed the Jordan River Friday after putting up a \$135,000 bond. The pilgrims are expected back in Jordan on March 31 after visiting Christian holy shrines in the West Bank, according to travel agent Michael Khan who organised their tour.

The agent told the Jordan Times that his uncle called him from Houston saying he had arranged for the payment of the bond as requested by the occupation authorities. Mr. Khan did not specify the terms of the bond but said it was refundable once the pilgrims left the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Khan said the Israeli authorities "tried every trick in the book" not to allow the pilgrims into the occupied territories. He quoted one of the black tourists as describing the Israeli attitude "an act of colour and racial discrimination."

"The Israelis may have assumed that the tourists were members of the black American Hebrews who immigrated to Dimona in Israel a couple of years ago," Mr. Khan said. This community, he said, was forced to return to the U.S. because of what the Jewish state saw as their conservative nature.

The leader of the 28-member group which crossed the Jordan River on Friday was quoted by AP in Amman as saying Israeli officials first said that the papers of the group were out of order and then demanded a \$150,000 bond. When the agent offered to post the bond as demanded, they were told it could not be done that day, and that the \$1,600 in cash needed for the bond was not refundable, he told the AP.

The Reverend S.D. James of Opalocka, Florida, said the Israeli authorities at the King Hussein Bridge also refused to allow members of the group to call the American consulate in Jerusalem, saying the phone line was not connected to the Holy City less than 30 kilometres away.

"It has changed my perception of Israel, yes," AP quoted the Rev. James as saying after he and the rest of the group were kept for six hours at the crossing point.

"There was no food, no water, no soda during the six hours," he told AP at his Amman hotel.

Mr. Khan said it was the first time that the Israeli authorities had denied entry to a group of pilgrims. An earlier incident involved a black American who was turned back but no demand was made for any bonds.

Mr. Khan's travel agency, whose main branch is located in Jerusalem, organises tours for American pilgrims from all denominations to visit the Holy Land via Jordan.

## Moves under way to convene PNC in Algiers

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Preparations for convening the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on April 20 are under way amid strong signals that the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is seriously considering participating in what is seen as a reunification session of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

Invitations for Palestinian personalities and all factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have already been sent out from the PNC headquarters in Amman and the door has been left open for all Palestinian groups to attend a national Palestinian dialogue due to start in Tunis on April 10. So far, Fatah, the pro-Iraqi Baathist Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestinian

# Iraq hails Tunisia for breaking ties with Iran

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz Friday hailed Tunisia's decision to break diplomatic relations with Iran.

"Tunisia's decision is an example which deserves to be followed (by other countries) against acts of sabotage carried out by Iran's diplomatic missions in several Arab and foreign countries," he told the official Iraqi News Agency (INA).

Tunisia broke with Iran Thursday, accusing Tehran of recruiting its nationals to commit illegal acts abroad and to create anarchy at home by stirring up extremism.

"Iran Friday accused Tunisia of making false and baseless allegations against it, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by IRNA, said Tunisia failed to offer any evidence to substantiate its allegations. "It has merely stated certain things in general terms and demonstrated an irresponsible reaction," he said.

The agency, monitored in London, quoted the spokesman as saying "the false and baseless allegations" showed that the Tunisian government was "frightened of the growth of the Islamic movement in Tunisia."

Tunisia's action followed the arrest of leaders of an Islamic opposition party in Tunisia and a police crackdown on violent protests by Islamic fundamentalist students.

Iranian diplomats in Tunisia

have been given three days to get out, the Tunisian News Agency, TAP, reported.

The accusations against Iran, made in a Foreign Ministry communiqué, were vaguely worded, but suggested a possible link with events this week in France, where people arrested on arms charges were found to be carrying Tunisian passports.

Meanwhile, a 27-year-old Tunisian named Abouani Hamouda Hassan is under arrest in the small Red Sea state of Djibouti and is said, by the authorities there to have confessed that he planted a bomb that killed 11 people, including four French servicemen and four other foreigners.

The Foreign Ministry said the Iranian embassy had violated diplomatic practice calling for "abstention from any act liable to harm the interests and sovereignty" of the host state.

The Iranian embassy was the link between Iranian organisations and pro-Iranian extremists attempting to sow ideological confusion and anarchy in Tunisia, it said.

It said the embassy was involved in the surveillance of other diplomatic missions in Tunis and "the recruitment of certain elements among the (Tunisian) communities abroad to commit

acts against international law."

This was intended to harm Tunisia's relations with friendly countries, it said, without naming the states concerned.

After severing diplomatic relations with Iran, Tunisia has begun talks with France concerning six Tunisian passport holders detained in Paris as suspected pro-Iranian guerrillas.

Tunisia's ambassador to France consulted French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua Thursday on anti-terrorist moves, the official TAP said, without giving details.

Ambassador Mustapha Zaouani said in a radio interview that those arrested in Paris belonged to the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad group, a fundamentalist Shi'ite organisation which has said it is holding French hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, is the right-hand man of Mr. Yasser Arafat in Fatah, the mainstream commando group under the umbrella of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He arrived Wednesday on a

visit to Kuwait, where an estimated 300,000 Palestinians are employed in various sectors of the Gulf state.

Mr. Khalaf, speaking at a news conference Thursday, said the talks on Lebanon were being conducted by Syria on one side, and Iran and the Shi'ite Hezbollah, or Party of God, on the other.

He said one of the disagreements centred on the foreign hostages held in Lebanon, apparently because Syria felt Hezbollah's conditions for helping gain their release were too tough.

Mr. Khalaf said that in return for helping ensure the release of

hostages, Hezbollah was stipulating that Syria ensure the release of 17 prisoners in Kuwait, two in France and two in West Germany.

Although Hezbollah itself has not claimed responsibility for holding hostages, it shares the same pro-Iranian political views as several of the groups that hold foreign captives.

Three of 17 terrorists convicted for the blasts at the U.S. and French embassies and other buildings in Kuwait in December 1983 were sentenced to death in 1984. They have not yet been executed.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Arab vets send cable of support to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday received a cable of support and appreciation from Dr. Ismail Rida, the chairman of the 18th conference of veterinary medicine, currently being held in Cairo by the Egyptian society of veterinary medicine. The Arab delegations participating in the conference, expressed their appreciation and support for His Majesty's efforts and endeavours aimed at regaining the occupied Arab territories and the cable expressed support and backing for the King's supportive stand of Iraq in its defence of the eastern Arab flank against Iranian aggressors.

## Forum organises student debate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Forum Humanum will today organise a debate at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture on the characteristics and features of democracy in Jordanian and Chinese societies. A team of Chinese students who are studying at the university as well as a team of Jordanian youths will take part in the debate.

## Experts to open solar energy talks today

AMMAN (Petra) — An Arab technical committee entrusted with discussing solar energy applications today opens a meeting at the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (ASMO). The three-day meeting will discuss the organisation's plans and projects connected with solar heaters used for domestic purposes. Delegates from Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and a number of Arab organisations will take part in the meeting. Working papers dealing with solar heating and the work of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) in this field will be discussed by the participants.

## VTC to discuss survey on manpower

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) will hold a seminar on Sunday to discuss a survey on manpower in Jordan. The survey was conducted by the VTC in cooperation with the Ministries of Planning, Higher Education and Labour as well as the General Statistics Department. The Cairo-based Ford Corporation donated \$50,000 to cover the costs of the survey which aimed at defining the characteristics and trends of labour and labour forces in Jordan in the industrial sector.

## Ministry prepares for admission exams

AMMAN (Petra) — The secondary admission exams for all students in Jordan will be held on June 14. Education Ministry sources announced Friday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity said the ministry has completed the distribution process of all application orders to be used by all students who are to take the exams. The ministry has also selected centres to host the exams. Applications for the exams will be received by the ministry and its affiliated departments as of April 1 and will run through May 16, the sources added.

## W. German archaeology director arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — The director of archaeological institutes in West Germany, Mr. Edmund Buchner, arrived here on Friday on a several-day visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with Department of Antiquities Director General Adnan Al Hadidi on means of further bolstering archaeological relations between Jordan and West Germany. Mr. Buchner will also visit a number of tourist and historical sites in Jordan.

## Carter urges positive Israeli response

(Continued from page 1)  
PLO. will participate must know that the international aspect is to bring people together for discussion. The actual negotiations on specifics would certainly be bilateral in nature."

In a related development, Mr. Peres fielded questions from Arabs in four countries on Thursday and said the best way to overcome an impasse in peace talks was to "share the government" rather than divide up disputed land.

The unprecedented programme was broadcast by Israel radio's Arabic language news show. Some 100 Arab questioners called the Israeli studio via Cologne, West Germany, and questions from some 30 were broadcast.

"The time has come to make peace," said Peres, capping the 105-minute show. "Despite our differences we can talk as neighbours and talk sense, even if not face to face, then voice to voice." Most questioners pressed Mr. Peres about his peace policies. Mr. Peres repeatedly defended Israel's refusal to talk with the

## Moves under way to convene PNC

(Continued from page 1)  
proportional representation for all Palestinian factions. Although described as "positive" by the PFLP, the Fatah proposals fell short of satisfying all Palestinian opposition factions which issued a joint statement in Tripoli on Wednesday outlining their position on the convening of a new PNC session. The statement called on the PLO leadership to sever all contacts with Egypt, to announce an official annulment of the Feb. 11 agreement with Jordan and to cancel the resolutions endorsed by the 17th session of the PNC held in Amman in 1984. The signatures of the statement included the PFLP, the DFLP, the Talaat Yacoub wing of the PLF, Fatah rebels, the PFLP-General Command, the Popular Struggle Front (PSF), and Abu Nidal's "Fatah Revolutionary Council. On Thursday, however, the DFLP followed with another statement

## Religious ceremonies mark holy feast of Al Israa wal Mi'raj

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with the Arab and Muslim world on Thursday celebrated Al Israa wal Mi'raj feast (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven). Religious ceremonies were held in mosques around the country and preachers spoke about the meaning and significance of the holy occasion.

The main celebration was held at the new Maghribat Ibn Shuhba mosque in Independence Street, Amman, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. The worshippers were addressed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who spoke of Muslims duty towards Al Aqsa Mosque in Arab Jerusalem and the need for liberating the holy shrine from Israeli rule.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan also addressed the worshippers and underlined the great importance of Jerusalem for Muslims. He also spoke of the teachings of the Prophet Mohammad and the Islamic faith.

Among the worshippers were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, senior officials, Cabinet members and religious leaders on Thursday pray at the new Maghribat Ibn Shuhba mosque on the occasion of Al Isra wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of Cabinet ministers.

Before the celebration, King Hussein inaugurated the new mosque.

## UDD project selected as model for U.N. conference on human settlements

By Mary West  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Urban Development Department's (UDD) East Wahdat upgrading project has been selected as a demonstration project at the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements tenth (commemorative) session, to be held in Nairobi from April 6-16.

1987 was designated by the U.N. General Assembly as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (IYSH), and the session is an important landmark in the whole IYSH programme of action. It commemorates the first United Nations conference on human settlements, held in Vancouver in 1976, and will review national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements, and assess future perspectives and trends worldwide, in the year 2000.

Several heads of state are expected to attend the conference, and a high level delegation will represent Jordan, including Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber, Director General of the Housing Corporation Shafiq Al Zawaidi and UDD Director General Hisham Zaghba.

According to the regional director of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Mr. Ali Shabot, the UDD's East Wahdat project is one of the several projects worldwide that have been selected as models for the conference because they demonstrate innovative and effective ways of providing shelter for the poor and disadvantaged.

Security of tenure  
East Wahdat was formerly a

squatter settlement where nearly 400 families lived in tin shacks in deplorable conditions with neither secure tenure, nor basic services such as water, electricity or sanitation. In an upgrading project that began at the end of 1982, the UDD negotiated security of tenure for the squatters, and assisted them in getting low-interest loans from the Housing Bank to pay for their plots and build houses. Sewers, water supply and electricity were installed, footpaths were built, and the area now has a community centre and a vocational training centre for women.

The outstanding aspect of the project was the incentive it provided to the families to pool their resources and work hard to improve their homes and neighbourhood, once their tenure was made secure. The project demonstrates the importance of secure tenure, community participation and self help, and affordable building loans, which are proving to be key issues in low-income shelter projects worldwide.

## Pharmacists hold seminar on dispensing antibiotics

AMMAN (Petra) — A one-day seminar held on Thursday by the Jordanian Pharmacists Association (JPJA) has recommended that dialogue should continue with the Health Ministry on dispensing antibiotics. The ministry earlier issued strict rules prohibiting the dispensing of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription.

The seminar also recommended that strong antibiotics be dispensed only by specialists who should first conduct allergy tests on patients before prescribing the drug, and also called on the government to speed up the application of a national health insurance scheme in Jordan. The seminar commemorated the establishment of the Arab Pharmacists Federation in the city of Jerusalem on April 2, 1966.

The seminar, held at the Professional Associations Complex in Amman, heard several working papers which also dealt with the question of antibiotics, along with other related subjects. JPJA President Ghaleb Sabbari said that antibiotics were discussed because they form 38 per cent of the total sale of drugs in Jordan.

is GUVS president, received 122 votes followed by Fakhr Bilbeisi who received 108, but Mr. Bilbeisi was elected chairman of the board for the Amman branch of GUVS during the first session. Representatives of 147 charitable and voluntary societies in the Amman region took part in the voting which was held at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

## GUVS branch elects new board

AMMAN — The Amman branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has elected a nine-member board of directors, approved a 1987 budget of JD 272,000 and endorsed a report on the board's achievements, financial and administrative performance in 1986.

Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, who

for two hours, Mr. Peres answered questions in English on Israeli-Arab relations. The queries were asked in Arabic.

"The Arabs are not our enemies... the only enemy is belligerency and hatred and war," Mr. Peres told an Egyptian caller.

At the end of the broadcast Mr. Peres said:

"I think that after our talk, you didn't stop being Arabic and didn't stop being Israeli, but both of us felt rather strongly that despite the difference in our nationalities or religion, we can really talk sense."

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## Jordan, India sign minutes of talks on economic cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The minutes of the annual meeting of the Jordanian-Indian committee on economic cooperation were signed in New Delhi on Friday after three-days of talks at the under secretary level.

The minutes of the meetings, which were signed by Under Secretary at the Trade and Industry Ministry Mohammad Al Saqqaf and his Indian counterpart call for increasing the volume of bilateral trade and maintaining the present level of Jordanian exports of phosphates, potash and fertilisers to India.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the signing ceremony, both sides also took practical measures to bring to light at least one of the several suggested joint industrial projects for fertilisers. Petra did not disclose whether the project will be based in Jordan or India

but said that Jordanian raw materials will be used in the manufacturing process and the final product would be marketed in the two countries.

Statistical figures on bilateral trade transactions reveal the balance of trade was in favour of Jordan with India importing 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports.

In 1986, India imported 1 million tonnes of phosphates, and a total of 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers. In the same year Jordan imported Indian goods worth \$15 million.

However, the 1986 figures of Indian exports have tripled from the level of JD 800,000 in 1985, Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan Times before his departure for New Delhi.

The Indian minister of trade received Mr. Saqqaf on Friday and both men discussed means of further consolidating bilateral trade ties.

The meeting was attended by Jordan's ambassador to India

Jamal Khoutat.

## Visit to Indonesia

Mr. Saqqaf's visit to the Far East will also take him to Indonesia for four days of official talks in Jakarta.

Indonesia is also a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Jordan hopes to increase its sales of phosphates to Jakarta from the present level of 500,000 tonnes for 1986 to 900,000 tonnes for this year.

Jordanian imports from Indonesia include timber, coffee, tea, textiles and fabrics.

Accompanying Mr. Saqqaf on his 10-day trip are Mr. Assem Al Hindawi, director of the Trade Ministry's department for developing economic cooperation and increasing imports, and Mr.

Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Wanis Al Hindawi, senior officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arash Potash Company respectively.

## U.S. joins 24-hour mail delivery service

AMMAN (Petra) — A fast mail delivery service between Jordan and the U.S. via regular flights of the Royal Jordanian airline (RJ) became operational on Friday.

With the U.S. joining the Ministry of Communication's 24-hour mail delivery service, the number of Arab and foreign countries included in the service is now 19.

These countries are: Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Britain, West Germany, France, Austria, Taiwan, the Netherlands, Greece, Japan, Cyprus and the U.S.

Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Idris Tarif said that the express mail delivery service would seek to cover more countries and called on citizens to benefit from this scheme in sending their urgent postal correspondence.

Operations of incoming and out-going express mail services are handled by the central post office in downtown Amman.

## Press foundation to distribute dividends to share holders

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Press Foundation company has announced it will distribute 17 per cent in share dividends to its shareholders, — a profit distribution of 170 fils on each share.

The company, publishers of the Arabic and English language daily Al Rai' and the Jordan Times, became a fully-fledged public shareholding company as of Jan. 1, 1986.

During the company's ordinary general assembly meeting held on Thursday, chairman of the board Mahmoud Al Kayed revealed that both newspapers were selling a total of 80,000 copies a day,

which were read by 400,000 people. The gathering, which was attended by 88.4 per cent of the company's shareholders, also endorsed an administrative and a financial report for 1986 prepared respectively by the foundation's board of directors and auditors.

Fahd Al Faneq and Co. was nominated and selected as the foundation's financial auditors for 1987.

Prior to the company's change of status — from a private shareholding company into a public one — it was owned by Mr. Kayed, Mr. Jouma Hammad, Mr. Raja Elissa, Mr. Mohammad Al Amad and Mr. Suliman Arrar.

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### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

#### Al Ra'i: An occasion for solidarity

MUSLIMS around the world Thursday celebrated Al Israa Wal Mi'raj, a holy occasion which bears great significance in the life of the Islamic nation. This celebration means a strengthening of the sense of responsibility of Muslims towards Al Aqsa Mosque and the rest of the holy places in the occupied Arab territory, and a duty of all Arabs and Muslims to liberate their land and holy shrines from Israeli occupation. Al Aqsa and other holy places have been for 20 years subject to desecration at the hands of the Zionists and the occupation forces and an arson attempt committed by Zionist extremists. There can be no meaning for this feast if the Arabs and Muslims leave their Aqsa Mosque subject to atrocities and violations by the Zionists and their barbaric actions; and the Muslims everywhere cannot escape the blame for leaving their land occupied by the Israeli forces and for their shirking of their duties towards their holy places in Jerusalem. Muslims have the potential to liberate their land and regain their rights, and they can launch efforts for liberating the usurped holy places and re-establishing peace in the Arab region. The Arab and Islamic history is full of lessons and instances abound of the unity of Muslims who were able to repel aggression and preserve the Islamic nation's rights.

#### Al Dustour: A reminder of plight

AL Israa Wal Mi'raj is a great feast for Muslims and bears sublime meanings and significance. Its anniversary comes again to remind Muslims of the great importance of their Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the need for mobilising efforts for liberating this holy shrine from Israeli occupation. Al Israa is a feast closely connected with the holy city of Jerusalem and its shrines which are now being desecrated by the Israeli occupation forces and the Zionists. Safeguarding Jerusalem and its holy places is as sacred for Muslims as the shrines in Mecca and the city of Jerusalem and its shrines are the cradle of all monotheistic religions, making it even greater and more important. The anniversary of Al Israa Wal Mi'raj comes this year again as Al Aqsa and the other holy places are still under occupation rule and the Arab and Muslim people of the occupied lands continue to be subjected to arbitrary measures and atrocities. This anniversary comes as the Israelis escalate their measures against the Arab population, closing their educational institutions and evicting them from their homeland. It is a moment for contemplation and stock-taking for Muslims who ought to unify their ranks and mobilise all their potentials for regaining their rights and their usurped homeland.

#### Sawt Al Shaab: But he is not the first

IN his tour of the Arab region, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter was informed of the Arab views with regard to the establishment of peace. When he was in the Arab countries Carter said that he understood the Arab views and there is need for an international conference for the achievement of peace. But when he later arrived in Israel, Carter opted for the Israeli views and supported ideas similar to those which led to the conclusion of the Camp David accords which he himself engineered. Carter and all other U.S. officials whether in or out of office are all captive of the Israeli views, and are all biased towards Israel, supporting its ideas and defending its interests. Despite Carter's knowledge of the Arab views and despite his realisation of the dimension of the tragedy the Palestinians have been subjected to, and although he realises that the Arabs are for real peace, yet he chose to adopt Israeli views and line of thinking. He believes that the Arabs should accept Israeli ideas which as we all know are opposed to the proposed international conference. When he was in Jordan, Carter was fully briefed on this country's views about peace which have been supported by the European Community and the majority of nations; and yet, in Israel he was clearly in favour of the Israeli views which are not for peace or stability and are opposed by the world community.

#### Thursday's

#### Al Ra'i: Int'l conference wins support

THE idea of a proposed U.N.-sponsored international conference to find a solution for the Middle East problem is winning support everyday as intensive efforts are being made by Jordan to achieve that end. The head of a Soviet delegation from the Supreme Soviet, now on a visit to Jordan, said Wednesday that the proposed conference can guarantee a lasting peace. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher echoed such ideas in her meeting in London with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia. She said her country is committed to efforts for achieving a lasting peace in the Middle East region. No doubt the idea of this conference will figure high on the agenda of talks between the Belgian foreign minister and the U.N. Secretary General in New York tomorrow. The two men are expected to dwell on the subject and support current efforts for convening the conference. This flurry in international diplomatic activity points to one thing that the international community has become totally committed to bringing about peace in our region and the pressure sooner or later will be put on the United States and Israel to change their stand. The international conference is the only means of achieving peace and guaranteeing the rights of all people in the region and the other alternative is an escalation of violence and a renewed outbreak of hostilities. The United States and Israel will find themselves continually isolated within the international community if they fail to respond favourably to the call of reason.

#### Al Dustour: Jordan reaffirms commitment to peace

KING Hussein told Mr. Vladimir Orlov, head of a Soviet delegation now visiting Jordan that he is committed to pursuing all efforts for convening an international conference that could bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace to the Middle East. The United Nations Security Council which issued the 242 and 338 resolutions on this problem should take responsibility towards bringing about peace in the region, specially as the United States has lost all credibility and proved totally biased towards Israel. Jordan has been supporting the Soviet Union's call for this conference and has now enlisted the support of the majority of world nations for convening it, so that peace can be established in the Middle East. Jordan wants all concerned parties to be involved in the peace-making process and wants the parties to convene under the auspices of the United Nations which engineered the two resolutions. Jordan, which is supported in its stand by the Arab countries, the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, has secured the backing of the Western countries and continues to secure the support and help of most world nations for its idea of bringing peace to the region. For this reason the endeavours for peace should not cease and the efforts for regaining Arab rights must continue.

### VIEW FROM AMMAN

## Education and the rote system: Origin and effects

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE call for a comprehensive overhaul of our educational system stems from our desperate need to encourage creativity, innovation and to open new horizons for possible creative minds among our youth. The price of failure, should we fail in this effort, will be a national tragedy for surely we shall fail to modernise and thus properly defend our culture, our values, our lands and our very existence. One of the major negative by-products of the rote system, with its emphasis on memorisation, is that it ultimately forces a high percentage of our students to cheat, which, in time, may develop into a habit that could eventually spread to other spheres of life: A person, whether in school or afterwards, and lacking proper training for problem solving, may find it not only convenient, but necessary for survival to cut corners, to look for an easy way out — to cheat. Dodging and avoiding difficult situations instead of facing them, or at least trying, could become a way of life.

It is not only academically interesting but nationally vital to seek the origins, the roots of the rote system in our heritage. Surely the diagnosis is necessary in order to assess the situation in search of adequate remedies. Of the many possible sources for the system in our tradition, three are of major significance: two before and one following the advent of Islam. All three factors have interacted in such a way as to leave an indelible mark on our society. The pre-Islamic oral tradition and the Arab love of poetry and abstract thought are one factor — a factor that continues to endure in our practical and intellectual life now. Lacking a written language, a language that was barely beginning to develop, in addition to the

almost total absence of educational institutions in the semi-primitive life of the Arab tribes in the period before Islam, identified by later generations as the age of Jahiliyyah, ignorance, with its near total dependence on oral, memorised knowledge. Very few records were kept, the written word was rare and those who could read or write were rare. The seven *Mu'allaqat*, poems of epic beauty and Homeric proportions were an exception. Their name derives from the fact that they were written in gold lettering on parchment, and hung on the side of the Ka'ba. The third factor has its root in the great honour bestowed on all who memorise the Holy Koran.

The oral tradition was useful at a certain stage of development, when knowledge itself was limited and could be encompassed by some which is no longer true or possible today. This is true in any field of human endeavour whether, in literature, the liberal arts, humanities, or the sciences. Any given field of knowledge is so inundated with new data, new interpretations, additions or new discoveries that no human being, however intelligent, can cope with it all. For those who may make such an attempt, frustration will be their reward. Worse, they and their work and life will be so imprecise as to cause them damage in an age of precise technology. The memory may fail, and, even when it does not, it cannot duplicate its output over and over again precisely. The machine can.

Wisdom is not the mastery of all knowledge, certainly a vain effort, but the proper use of what knowledge one has. If one knows

how to use the tools at hand efficiently he is on the way to mastering his life and controlling, or at least planning, the future. We need a system that teaches our youth how to arrive at the threshold of their own wisdom and not simply to stuff them with data: How to fish instead of offering them the fish; how to think, how to relate to their universe, how to analyse and how to relate themselves and their lives to the knowledge they are acquiring. The *Mu'allaqat* memorised data that we now stuff their brains with teaches them dependence on that knowledge instead of a constant search for new ideas, new approaches, new solutions. Because of the basic conservatism of man, our current system perpetuates the idea that all knowledge has been discovered, it age making it sacrosanct. Eventually it trains the mind to think in clichés, popular sayings and patterns that in turn will lead to the development of a defence mechanism against anything new: a paranoia against change. It is not an accident that all folklore runs in patterns whether in dress, speech, dance, song, music, art, even food. Everything is done in a particular way with no variation at all. The refrain, the step, the pattern, the recipe is repeated over and over again. It is nice, it is enriching and quaint, but hardly conducive to innovation, creativity, or exploration. In fact, it discourages variation considering it a break with tradition, a social heresy even a break with a sanctified taboo. The conformity itself becomes a virtue beyond question colonising in disciplining the mind into a straight jacket making it timid and fearful of anything new or of exploring new ways, new styles, new methods. The inability to deviate or create or venture, results in stagnation.

## America is the Jews' 'promised land'

By Jacob Neusner

The following is part two of a two-part article that appeared recently in The Washington Post. The writer, a rabbi, teaches Judaic studies at Brown University and is author of "Death and Birth of Judaism: The Impact of Christianity, Secularism and the Holocaust on Jewish Faith" and "Israel in America: A Too Comfortable Exile?" Part one of the article appeared in Thursday's issue of the Jordan Times.

APART from some fine fiction, Israeli art and creative life have made only a slight impact on American Jews. They do not look to Tel Aviv for stimulation or for imagination. And throughout the Jewish world, no philosophers in Judaic studies have a bearing overseas. Israeli scholarship boasts no social scientists working on Jewish materials in a way that interests anyone but Jews. Israeli scholarship in Judaic studies is provincial, erudite, unimaginative, remarkably unproductive — just a lot of dull-witted fact-mongering by third-rate academic politicians. The level of academic discourse is easily grasped when you realise that character-assassination has replaced criticism of ideas.

And everywhere in the Jewish world, Jewish scholarship produced in America is read. Books of Jewish history, religion, literature, philosophy, written by Jewish Americans appear in all European languages. American Jewish theologians led in the Jewish-Christian ecumenical movement. Israeli scholars in the study of Judaism have won any audience at

all outside of the State of Israel. Everyone can boast about locals. But who, today, is listening?

No historians, no philosophers in Judaic studies have a bearing overseas. Israeli scholarship boasts no social scientists working on Jewish materials in a way that interests anyone but Jews. Israeli scholarship in Judaic studies is provincial, erudite, unimaginative, remarkably unproductive — just a lot of dull-witted fact-mongering by third-rate academic politicians. The level of academic discourse is easily grasped when you realise that character-assassination has replaced criticism of ideas.

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do debate ideas.

Then what about living in the State of Israel to recharge our Jewish batteries? It's got wonderful hotels, great scenery, first rate tours, and Jewish everything. It's like what they say about New York — a great place to visit.

Beyond that, though, world Jewry has voted with its feet. When the Algerian Jews were driven out of Algeria, the French government offered to provide them with some settlement aid to go to Haifa or Lyon. Most chose France.

When Soviet Jews leave for the free West, some choose the State of Israel. Most don't.

More Israelis live in the United States than in Jerusalem. Enough said.

What about the political change the State of Israel has brought about for world Jewry?

No doubt, the sight of a Jewish state defending Jewish lives moves us all. Would that it had come a decade sooner!

But Entebbe is not the whole story — or even a big part of it. Israelis tell us that they have made the Jewish people independent for the first time in 2,000 or more years; now there is not only a Jewish state, but the Jewish people, as a political entity, make

their own decisions and are able to dictate their own fate and future.

Would that it were so! In fact the State of Israel is a client state, not Sparta or Athens, either. Having priced itself out of independence in economic terms, and because of recurring wars, the State of Israel depends upon a generous America. That's perfectly natural in a world divided between the superpowers. But it does not add up to independence.

I, for one, am glad that the State of Israel has allied itself so closely with our country. I think it's good for this country to have one really strong, reliable and stable ally in the Middle East. But it's hard to see how Israeli dependence on American military and economic support squares with the claim that Jews, if they live in the State of Israel, are really all that independent. I'm not even sure what independence can mean.

Then what about religion? At least here the Jewish state should have kept its promise.

In some ways, it has. I cannot imagine anything more beautiful than the Sabbath in Jerusalem or the pilgrim festivals in Galilee. Nor is there more pleasure in this life than attending a worship ser-

vice in an Israeli synagogue where the people believe with all their hearts the truth of every word of worship — which they understand and fully grasp.

And if you want to see a national society that treats the aged with dignity and children with unrepresed love, go to the State of Israel. They even know how to bury their dead without sentimentalism and with honesty. In these and other ways they have human lessons to teach us all. Israelis are wonderful to young children and the aged. It's just the middle years, between childhood and old age, where they find it hard to sort things out.

One thing they have not yet solved is how to provide religious freedom for Jews. For instance, as a Conservative rabbi I have no standing in the State of Israel — unless I accept the status of a heretic. The state supports and recognises only Orthodoxy, and Orthodoxy of a peculiarly primitive character at that. State Orthodox rabbis just now have kept women to stay away from burials of the dead because they are "impure." So much for state Orthodoxy in the State of Israel. Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist as well as Orthodox Jews enjoy religious equality.

in America, but not in the State of Israel. In sheer numbers, these non-Orthodox Judaisms dominate world Jewry, but the State of Israel treats them as heretics.

Not a single Israeli rabbi or other religious figure can claim to exercise moral authority outside the State of Israel. In fact, beyond the limited circles of Orthodoxy within the State of Israel not one religious figure has an audience of any kind. The Israeli rabbinate lacks all moral standing in the Diaspora, for Reform and Conservative Jews who make up the vast majority of Jews in the United States and Canada.

So much for being a Jew in the State of Israel. Here in the "Diaspora" we can be what we want, when we want — from nothing to everything, all the time or once in a while. Freedom is nice, too. And this really has become a free country for us Jews. It wasn't always that way. It may not always be that way. But let's stop denying what — at least now — it is.

For American Jews — now Jewish Americans — the American dream has come true. I wonder how many Israelis think the Zionist one has come true, too.

## Syria, imposing peace on W. Beirut, balks at the city's south

By Jim Muir

WEST BEIRUT — Have the Syrians already begun to sink into Lebanon's swamps? Some local observers — perhaps indulging in an element of wishful thinking — think so. For despite the Syrians' general success in imposing order on the anarchy of West Beirut, progress on other fronts has been blocked off, at least for the moment. And 12 years of turmoil in Lebanon have established a new village of Jerusalem. After Gershon Scholem, not a single major Israeli thinker has made a mark outside the intellectual village of Jerusalem. After Gershon Scholem, not a single Israeli scholar in the study of Judaism has won any audience at

them being rescued alive by a military move are clearly slight.

The unresolved conflict between the Shi'ite Amal Movement and the Palestinians at the Beirut refugee camps is also unlikely to be settled other than in the context of "official" security moves involving the suburbs which surround them. Although Syrian troops control arterial roads near the camps, they have continued to avoid contacts with them.

Conditions in both Burj Al Barajeh and Shatila have eased somewhat, residents say, with sporadic clashes and sniping replacing the violent battles of the past four months. A few food convoys have been allowed in each one the subject of strenuous negotiations — to relieve the worst of the hunger. But despite

announcements from Amal that the blockade had been lifted, the camps remain encircled, with Amal leader Nabih Berri linking their fate to the situation in villages east of Sidon taken over by the Palestinians last November in an effort to relieve pressure on the Beirut and Tyre camps.

Syria's failure to control the suburb also seems to be putting a brake on the political settlement. Intermittent negotiations between Syrian officials and a team of three envoys from President Amin Gemayel have become bogged down. The Syrians and the Muslim leadership in West Beirut want Gemayel and loyalist Lebanese army units to impose official security in Christian East Beirut and end the role of the Lebanese Forces militia, which has been fiercely critical of the

Syrian intervention. It was something of an "after you, Alphonse" situation. If official security were applied in East Beirut, the Syrians and their allies would be able to argue more cogently that the southern suburbs should not be left as the only exception holding up the resurrection of the "Greater Beirut" idea, the constant refrain of the Iranian-backed fundamentalists being the valid argument that there has been no internecine strife in the suburbs to necessitate an intervention. But Gemayel would not be encouraged to move against the Christian militia unless convinced that the Syrians were serious, through a suppression of the fundamentalists.

For Syria, any collision with the Iranian-backed factions

## Egypt's election fight warms up

By Tom Porteous

CAIRO — Sectarian violence in southern Egypt and rumours that foodstuffs contaminated by nuclear radiation from Chernobyl have been imported into the country are emerging as two dominant issues in the election campaign. The country goes to the polls on 6 April.

Opposition, government and religious leaders are all anxious to calm the sectarian tension in the southern Egyptian cities of Sohag and Bani Suef which led to the burning of two churches and a mosque at the end of February. The conflict among extreme Christians and Muslims is said to have been provoked by rumours that veils of Muslim women were being sprayed with signs of the cross in an invisible substance which became visible after washing. Government and opposition newspapers have sought to assure Egyptians that the phenomenon, though embarrassing, is the effect of the natural aging and wearing of certain kinds of synthetic materials. But the rumours have persisted.

For Syria, the stand-off over the southern suburbs means that the other questions must also be left in abeyance. The hostage's fate is clearly tied to the suburbs issue. Indeed, as one Lebanese source put it, "The hostages have become an insurance policy against Syria entering the suburbs by force" — since the chances of

many Egyptians have expressed the fear that age-old tensions between Egypt's Christian minority and Muslims could lead to a general conflagration. The opposition, using the issue to discredit President Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party, have gone as far as to talk in terms of the "Lebanonisation" of Egypt.

In a front-page editorial, the small left-wing Tagammu newspaper, *Al-Ahli*, has interpreted the sectarian troubles as a symptom of the government's inability to counter economic and social decline. The only way to eliminate sectarian sedition, it says, lies in total democratic reform. The opposition charges that the electoral system is undemocratic and that the government relies on vote-rigging for repeated election victories.

For its part, the government initially put down the violence with heavy police reinforcements and a number of arrests. Now the authorities are seeking to calm the situation by sending religious leaders to the areas of conflict and by undertaking to rebuild the damaged churches and mosques.

Meanwhile there has been growing concern among Egyptians and residents in Egypt about unconfirmed reports that food contaminated by nuclear fall-out from last year's Chernobyl disaster has found its way onto the market. Egyptian market. The opposition first raised the issue last summer amid fears that corruption in the Egyptian customs departments and inadequate safety measures and radiation testing equipment made Egypt an ideal dumping ground for unscrupulous traders out to make a quick profit by selling off radioactive products. Serious worries set in among educated Egyptians last month after a spokesman for the West German government said in a shockingly obscure statement that significant quantities of radioactive products had reached Alexandria via Hamburg.

Since then the Egyptian government has maintained a worrying near silence on the issue, denying on the one hand that any contaminated goods had passed through customs and on the other expressing its deep concern and assuring citizens of its watchfulness. But it has taken no steps to inform the public of the dangers of radiation in general. In contrast, the opposition has raised a furor, insisting on more government information — both specific and general — and alleging several further incidents of imports of contaminated foods including flour, lentils and milk products. An article in one opposition paper called for the execution of those responsible for attempting to import contaminated goods.



A Palestinian refugee woman (right) turns an UNRWA school classroom in one of Lebanon's camps into a playground for children (UNRWA photo).



Palestinian refugees flee a besieged camp during Beirut's "war of the camps" (UNRWA photo).

## Palestinian women of the camps: A special way of life

THE difficulty of writing about camps in relation to women is that they contain so many highly contradictory realities that to select one aspect at the expense of others leads to gross distortion. Within one small social space we can find women who run projects, and women who only leave their homes to shop; women who have studied medicine in the USSR, and women who were taken out of school at 13 to marry; girls whose brothers encouraged them to join a resistance group, others whose brothers burned their clothes to prevent them from going out; girls who fight to defend the camp during sieges, others whose only concern is the latest fashions. A camp is a kaleidoscope: Depending on where one looks or to whom one listens, it is a crucible of change or a bastion of conservatism.

One tradition has presented the camps as places where certain kinds of "progress" have taken place. Evidence selected ranges from falling rates of infant mortality due to improved health services (most women give birth in hospitals nowadays, and midwives have been "upgraded"); rising educational levels, result of free schooling from 6 to 16; opportunities for skilled employment; later age at first marriage, and the dying out of *ijbari* (coercive) marriage; the break-up of the traditional patriarchal household; and the widespread involvement of women in the resistance movement. All this is true, but it is important to guard against two kinds of distortion: First, the extent of these changes should not be overestimated; second, they should not be seen as beginning with the uprooting of 1948. All the most outstanding characteristics of camp women, whether it is

their capacity for struggle, or for rebuilding their homes, or for making moeoe stretch, grow directly out of their peasant past, and can only be understood within this time frame in mind.

Take education: It is true that there were very few schools for girls in Palestinian villages — only 46 by 1944/45, but the demand for them was building up. Girls' schools were established in the 1980s in urban centres, and the cities had a cultural influence over the countryside. Further, the leaders of the national movement attached importance to the education of women. And by the '40s, there were already women teachers ready to work in villages. Old women in camps often talk about their struggles to be allowed to attend school; hence the pressure they put on their daughters to take the chance of schooling. Many a girl who has succeeded in "completing" her education, i.e. reaching university, has done so because she was supported by an illiterate mother or grandmother.

In contrast to Palestinian villages, camps provided free schooling, with the result that, by 1979, overall illiteracy had dropped to 35 per cent. In addition, the proportion of girls in elementary classes was high (85 per cent in Lebanon in 1977/78). However behind these encouraging statistics we find several dark areas: Less than half the girls complete the whole UNRWA cycle to gain the *brevet* diploma that would open up for them some kind of vocational training, while the proportion that continue into secondary school is very low indeed. PLO census-takers in 1978/79 found that 22 per cent of the female population aged above 10 had reached the

primary certificate, 8.5 per cent the intermediate certificate, 2.8 per cent the secondary certificate, while only 0.9 per cent had been to university. Perhaps the most startling discovery is the low number of women with any kind of vocational diploma: one cause for concern is residual illiteracy in the school-age population: in Shatila 3.4 per cent of female illiterates were aged between 10 and 19.

This was the picture shortly before the 1982 war, when resistance scholarships were plentiful and incomes high. If statistics were available today, they would show even fewer girls going on to secondary school, and higher rates of drop-out all through. Lina, a Shatila girl aged 17, an excellent student who was aiming at university, was suddenly catapulted into marrying a young man with a job in the Gulf by parents who had bad genuine ambitions for her, and had always proclaimed their intention of letting their daughters choose whom and when to marry. But times had changed, and they had eight other children to feed and educate. People say this is happening on a wide scale.

As to employment, anyone who visits the Beirut camps will be impressed by the visibility of women working in social institutions — around 70 per cent of Palestine Red Crescent workers are women. Moreover, today, women of camp background are often found in charge, responsible for a local centre or a section within an institution. Ten years ago, direction lay very clearly outside the camps, and there was a wider gap in qualifications and powers; whereas in Shatila today there are three or four women of whom the word "powerful" can legitimately be used, who control resources. But before extolling this as proof of "progress," we need to realise how contingent it is on the existence of jobs and resources. The number professionally employed in fact is very slight, and the possibilities for professional training available to the majority of girls, never extensive, are deeply threatened by present insecurity.

Second, it is only possible to represent the rather low employment rates of camp women as "progress" if we assume that they come out of a background of narrowly defined domesticity. But there is nothing really new about Palestinian women working. In Palestine the role of peasant women in agricultural

production was a strong one — they not only produced, but marketed their produce, and were used to handling money. They also possessed a range of artisanal skills other than the embroidery for which they are best known: Weaving, pottery, many kinds of food preservation, the making of domestic equipment, and parts of houses. They also managed large households that produced as well as consumed, a better basis than the nuclear family from which to launch into "social production." It is important to recall these historical facts because, on the one hand, camp conditions caused the loss rather than development of these capacities, and on the other because camp women still possess the qualities bred by their foremothers' productive/managerial roles: physical strength, mobility, resourcefulness, and manual dexterity. What such women can become is well illustrated by those who have risen from a modest educational base to senior positions in institutions such as the Kamafam Foundation and Najdeh. Both have made a special point of encouraging women from camp backgrounds to upgrade their qualifications.

But however exciting these manifestations are, they must be set against the stark fact of lack of training and employment openings. The provision of basic literacy to 80 per cent of girls in camps did not, even in good times, open up to them the possibility of skilled employment. This is clear from the low rate of camp women's participation in the labour force, 6.5 per cent according to the PLO census in 1979 (based on five camps), compared with 18 per cent for Lebanese women, and 11 per cent for Syrian women (1975 figures). The gate to all kinds of professional training (including nursing), is the *baccalaureat*, and between the *brevet*, when UNRWA schooling ends, and the *baccalaureat* stretch three to four years of expensive secondary school. True, a handful of camp girls were beginning to be admitted to UNRWA's vocational training centre at Sibleen (closed since 1983). True, resistance scholarships enabled another handful to reach university in Lebanon or abroad. But such chances were not available to the majority. For them the vocational training courses conducted in or near most camps were and are more relevant, requiring only *brevet* or basic literacy. But these courses

have been limited in type (mainly sewing and typing), as well as in level. Their diplomas were sufficient for jobs in resistance offices, but were not recognised by Lebaeose employers. Though new vocational courses have been introduced since the 1982 war (including business and office skills, hairdressing, accountancy), very few graduates have found work. This is partly because of the closure of the Lebanese economy to Palestinians, partly because low income levels in camps do not allow the commercial development that generates jobs for Lebaeose women.

It would be false to conclude from this, however, that vocational courses are a waste of time. On the contrary, there are many reasons why they should be expanded and developed. Women who work before marriage are more likely to work after, and though this brings strain, it is also a basis of satisfaction, and, in case of widowhood, it gives a woman qualifications to fall back on. Further, many girls leave the camp on marriage, and to the diaspora they are often able to

## FAO encourages poor to raise rabbits for food

By Frances D'Emilio  
The Associated Press

about raising larger numbers of rabbits. That villager, in turn, teaches others.

Bessi said that smaller animals like guinea pigs, chickens and rabbits are a logical alternative to raising larger animals like sheep and cows since the smaller animals cost less to feed, take up less space and breed quickly. Rabbits produce litters of eight to 10 offspring.

All the rabbit-raising efforts would be of little use, however, if people refused to eat them. So, the FAO also distributes an English-language cookbook to Caribbean countries that contains recipes such as mustard rabbit and rabbit cabbage.

In some countries, rabbits are already the basis for common meals or even Haute cuisine.

In Italy, *coniglio al bosciolo*, a dish of tender stewed rabbit meat with tomatoes and mushrooms, is a succulent speciality during winter months.

Skinned animals with beads still attached hang in butchershops with sides of beef and legs of lamb throughout Italy, Western Europe's largest importer of rabbits.

Bessi says that in the countries where rabbit-raising projects are underway, virtually no taboos exist against eating the animals.

Some problems in the project already have been faced. Project workers in Rwanda, for example, found residents raising the animals for sale rather than food.

"In Rwanda, so many people sell rabbit meat for money to buy other things," Bessi said. "Cheaper food or maybe clothes for the children."

Bessi said another problem was government officials who were concerned that introduction of the rabbits to their nations not duplicate the 19th century experience of Australia, where rabbits had no natural predators and, their numbers unchecked, destroyed thousands of acres of vegetation.

In response, Bessi says natural predators such as dogs exist in all the countries where the rabbit project is operating.

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## The true meaning of Lent

By Rev. Fr. Musa Adeli

caused by the sheer indifference and/or ill-will of others, what should be one's attitude? Isaiah, the great old prophet, had many things to say, things which are by no means out of date in 1987. In chapter 58 he says: "You who oppress your workmen, quarrel and fight when you fast and strike the poor man, is this what you call fasting? The fasting that pleases the Lord is rather to break unjust fetters, to let the oppressed go free, to share your bread with the hungry and to clothe the naked poor, then when you call to the Lord he will listen to you."

One might very well ask why are there so many hungry people in the world, so many poorly housed and clothed and illiterate? Perhaps the main answer is the huge amount of funds spent on building huge arsenals. Some would say this is necessary in order to defend the people. The people? Who are the people to be defended? Are they those who are at present living under cardboard roofs and living a hand-to-mouth existence. If the truth is told no one, who champions defense-spending, is worried about those types of people. If at all they worry, it would be concerning their own property and power. The poor, as during the time of Isaiah are left to get on with it on their own.

Here in Jordan, what can one do to help the poor? There are poor in Jordan who need help. Fasting from alcohol, cigarettes, sweets, snacks, videos and the money saved could be used in helping a poor family. If one does not know of any poor families, it takes no effort to find out where they are! One could visit the poor patients in the hospitals; they could be given some gifts; if one does not know of any poor families, it takes no effort to find out where they are! One could visit the poor patients in the hospitals; they could be given some gifts; if one does not know of any poor families, it takes no effort to find out where they are!

These days with such a complex situation existing all over the world, where there is an economic crisis in almost every country, especially in the Third World, how should one really interpret this whole concept of fasting? In the face of human misery such as poverty, homelessness, unemployment and sickness often

**JTV Channel 2 Preview**  
Sat. — March 28, 1987  
8:30 You Again  
8:30 Music Box  
9:30 Dad's Army  
Tue. — March 31, 1987  
10:20 Feature Film  
Obsessive Love  
8:30 The New Cycle  
A review of the new cycle (beginning April 1) programmes.  
9:00 Varieties  
10:20 Feature Film  
Romance On The Orient Express  
Filmed in Venice, Paris and France, Romance On The Orient Express is the love story of the year, set aboard the world's most famous train. With an international cast and a lavish production the story is packed with passion and drama. Lovely blonde Cheryl Ladd stars as successful writer, Lily Parker, confronted on the famous train by Alex (Stuart Wilson), the handsome Englishman with whom she had a brief affair some years before. This is the emotional story of Lily's fight for her pride and future happiness.

This preview stops at Tuesday, March 31, because JTV's new cycle starts on Wednesday, April 1.  
Sun. — March 29, 1987  
8:30 Who's the Boss  
9:10 Doc. — Gaza's Ghetto  
This programme relates the tragedy of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by illustrating the history of a Palestinian family between 1948-1984, and the way the Arab homes and villages were destroyed and replaced by Jewish settlements.  
10:20 Spearfield's Daughter  
Cleo, in her capacity as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, publishes new information about the gang, and the latter decides to assassinate her.

Mon. — March 30, 1987  
Cleo, in her capacity as the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, publishes new information about the gang, and the latter decides to assassinate her.

## IAAF awards Gonzalez world mark over Coglan due to timing

LONDON (Agencies) — Track's governing body said Friday that Jose Luis Gonzalez of Spain, not Eamonn Coglan of Ireland, owns the world indoor record for the 1,500 metres.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said the decision to reject Coglan's three-minute, 35.6-second performance in San Diego, California in 1981 as a world record was based on a lack of backup timing.

Officials said it was the only widely recognised world best to be refused indoor-record status.

Gonzalez's time of 3:36.03, set in Oviedo, Spain, last year, was correctly timed and thus accepted as the 1,500 record, Mike Gee, the IAAF's technical officer, said.

Coglan's time was recorded during a mile race, which the Irish runner ran in 3:49.78. Both times had been on the books as world indoor bests and the mile mark has been accepted as an indoor world record with confirmation by the Athletics Congress, the governing body for track and field in the United States, the IAAF said.

"Coglan's performance (in the 1,500) has not been ratified as a world record," Gee said. "It was a performance that was recorded in all the stats books and everyone knows about."

Since Jan. 1, indoor performances have been eligible for world-record status. Performances prior to this year, referred to as world indoor bests, have been reviewed by the IAAF for the record list, and Gee said Coglan's 1,500 was the lone mark not given world-record designation.

"It was the only one where we did not get confirmation by the member federation that all requirements for a world record as we stipulated were met," he said.

To meet those requirements, Gee said, Coglan's 1,500 would have had to be timed by three stopwatches. While three watches were used at the finish of the mile, only one watch timed the 1,500, Gee said.

Doping, U.S. footballers on IAAF council agenda

New punishments for drug offences and the reinstatement of American footballers were on the agenda of the IAAF council meeting which opened Thursday.

The council will also decide venues for three big events — the 1991 World Championships, the 1989 World Marathon Cup and the 1990 World Cross-Country Championships — during the four-day session.

IAAF President Primo Nebiolo said the council would examine proposals to change the period of disqualification for positive doping which will go before the congress in August.

Under present rules, an athlete found guilty of drug-taking is immediately disqualified for life, with the chance of the sentence being reduced to 18 months on appeal.

"There are different ideas on this," Nebiolo said. "To some people 18 months seems too little so the council will study proposals to modify the punishment."

The council will also consider applications from the U.S. Athletics Federation to allow four professional footballers back into

athletics.

They are high hurdler Willie Gault, bronze medalist at the 1983 World Championships in Helsinki, sprinters Stanley Floyd and Herschel Walker and shot putter Mike Carter.

The IAAF modified its rules on professional sportsmen and women last August after deciding to reinstate American 110 metres hurdles world record holder Renaldo Nehemiah. It had previously resisted attempts to allow such athletes back into amateur competition.

Upon Mitropoulos' kick, Sarvakos rocketed forward, passing by Dutch defender Ronald Koevoet and goalie Haus Van Breukelen, who had run far forward to meet the sudden threat.

After that, it was an easy score for Sarvakos with the Dutch goal left totally undefended.

The Dutch team, which had opened the match aggressively enough, were visibly demoralized, and it took it at least 15 minutes to recover some of its earlier momentum.

Six minutes after half time, a corner kick by Arnold Muelher

"Rehabilitation of these four is not automatic," he said. "Not all of them have the same attitude as Nehemiah so the considerations are different."

Nebiolo said applications to stage the World Championships had been received from Los Angeles, Perth, Tokyo and West Berlin. Rome will host them later this year. The world cross-country candidates are: Ai-Les-Bains, France; Olympia, Greece; Belfast and Ostend, Belgium.

The council, whose decisions will be announced on Sunday, must also decide between Milan, Italy, and Oporto, Portugal for the World Marathon Cup.

## Netherlands, Romania win European ties

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (Agencies) — The Netherlands-Greece European championship soccer match ended in a 1-1 draw with goals by Dimitrios Sarvakos and Marco Van Basten.

The Greeks opened scoring in the sixth minute of the Group Five qualifying match Wednesday night, after Anastasios Mitropoulos took a free kick faster than the Dutch team had expected.

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sent the ball soaring to Ronald Spelbos, who was ready at the near post of the Greek goal.

Spelbos passed it on to Van Basten, the ace player of Ajax of Amsterdam, who scored.

Although the crowd of 57,000 in the capacity-filled Feyenoord Stadium here seemed pleased enough, Dutch captain Ruud Gullit thought otherwise.

"We fought hard — that's the only thing I can compliment the team on," said the star player of PSV of Eindhoven after the match.

Romania trounces Albania

Meanwhile in Bucharest, Romania displayed the attacking face of its football character with an emphatic 5-1 win over Group One outsider Albania in their European Championship tie.

The enigmatic Romanians can be thrillingly stylish or uncompromisingly defensive as the mood suits, and it was Albania's misfortune to catch the home

team in an adventurous frame of mind.

Its victory was due in no small part to European Cup holder Steaua Bucharest who provided all five goal scorers, the deluge starting in the first minute of the match when Victor Piturca headed home a cross from defender Stefan Iovan.

Albania did manage to draw level through Muca in the 34th minute but two further Romanian goals before the interval from Ladislav Boloni (41 minutes) and George Hagi, with a 45th minute penalty, ended the visitor's dwindling resistance.

There was no let up after the interval and defenders Miodrag Belodedici and Adrian Bumbescu raised the tally to five in the 54th and 59th minutes.

The result put Romania at the top of Group One ahead of Spain, whom it meets at home next month on goal difference with four points from three games.

## English transfer deals hit \$48 million mark for year

LONDON (R) — Though seldom a week goes by without news of a financial crisis at one of England's 92 league soccer clubs, the transfer market has never been brisker.

Alan Smith's \$200,000 (\$1.28 million) move from Leicester to

"It's been busier than recent years," said football league spokesman Andy Williamson, who showed a financier's touch by adding: "Last season was very quiet, but with money coming in from abroad the market is continuing to pick up."

It was the most lively deadline day for five seasons, with First Division strugglers Oxford, West Ham and Charlton among those trying to buy their way out of trouble.

West Ham manager John Lyall took his spending for the year to over £1 million (\$1.6 million) when he signed Aberdeen defender Tommy McQueen. Oxford paid Fourth Division Aldershot a substantial fee for high-scoring Martin Foyle, and former Tottenham striker Dave Watson from Norwich to Everton for £90,000 (\$1.4 million).

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Italy downs China in ice hockey

CANAZEI, Italy (AP) — American-born Mark Stuckey slipped in one goal and notched an assist to lead Italy to a 7-3 victory over China in the Group B World Ice Hockey Championships here. Earlier, France tied Norway, 5-5. Stuckey led an aggressive Italian attack that also included one goal and one assist apiece from teammates Cary Ferelli and Jerry Cercier. In the earlier game Thursday, Norway's Orjan Lovdal opened the scoring at 7:51 of the first period and followed with another in the third period to emerge as top individual scorer. The round-robin Group B competition, which began Thursday in this northern Italian town, is a preliminary encounter leading to the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary next year. The three top-placed teams will qualify for the Olympics.

### Napoli retains Bianchi as manager

NAPLES, Italy (R) — Napoli manager Ottavio Bianchi has signed a contract to stay with the Italian League leader for a third year, the club announced Thursday night. Bianchi, 43, who joined Napoli from Avellino on an original two-year contract in 1985, had said he would make this his last season at the club following the criticism which followed the team's first-round UEFA Cup defeat last autumn. Since then Napoli, captained by Diego Maradona, has dominated the domestic championship. It is three points clear of Roma at the top of the First Division and appear poised to win its first league title. Napoli declined to detail of Bianchi's new contract, which was signed Thursday, but Italian newspapers said he would earn an estimated 450 million lire (\$350,000) for the year.

### Americans set speed-skating world marks

MOSCOW (AP) — Americans Bonnie Blair and Nick Thometz set world records in the 500-metre events at the USSR Speed-Skating Cup at the high-altitude Medeo Rink in Kazakhstan, the TASS news agency reported. Blair, 22, finished the women's 500 metres in 39.28 seconds on Thursday, improving on the 39.52-second mark set by East German Karin Kamis-Eiske last March. Thometz, 24, took the men's race in 36.23 seconds, breaking the 1983 record of 36.57 seconds set by Pavel Pegov of the Soviet Union. Both previous records were set at the Medeo Rink, on the outskirts of the Kazakh Republic capital of Alma Ata in the foothills of the Tien Shan Mountains.

### Former British boxing champion retires

LONDON (AP) — Welshman Colin Jones, who had three unsuccessful shots at the world welterweight boxing title, announced his retirement Thursday, more than two years after his last fight. Jones, an ex-grave digger from Gorseinon in south Wales, has not fully recovered from a nagging back injury which has kept him out of the ring since his World Championship defeat by the former undisputed title-holder Don Curry in January, 1985. Jones, 28, had hoped to make a comeback against British welterweight champion Kirkland Laing but a further inspection of the injury ruled out the contest. Before his fight with Curry, Jones had two meetings with Milton McCrory for the world title, drawing the first in Reno, Nevada, and losing the second on a split decision in Las Vegas.

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A representative of the U.S. International Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to provide information on U.S. Income Tax Filing:

April 1: 1:00-4:30 p.m. Consular Section, American Embassy 7:00-9:00 p.m. American Center, 3rd Circle, Jabal Amman

April 2: 1:00-4:30 p.m. Consular Section, American Embassy

You may call 644371 ext. 232 for further details

### Top 2 Czech women advance in tourney

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — Czechoslovakia's top two players, Hana Mandlikova and Helena Sukova, both needed a tiebreaker, but posted straight set victories over unseeded players. Fourth-seeded American Zina Garrison beat Canada's Caring Bassett 6-3, 6-1, and fifth-seeded American Kathy Rinaldi needed three sets, but overcame Elena Reznach of South Africa 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

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## British, Saudi ministers meet over arms sales row

LONDON (R) — British and Saudi Arabian ministers met Thursday during a state visit by King Fahd for talks expected to try to resolve difficulties over a £5 million (\$7.9 billion) arms contract, officials said.

The deal for Britain to supply Saudi Arabia with 132 warplanes, including 72 tornadoes, was signed last year. It was Britain's largest defence contract.

Saudi Arabia was to pay partly in oil but has fallen behind in payments since oil prices fell from \$30 a barrel a year ago to \$18 now.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer may ask British Energy Minister Peter Walker if methods of payment can be renegotiated, officials said.

Saudi Industry Minister Abduraziz Al Zamil was expected to

ask British counterpart Paul Channon for Britain to provide Saudi Arabia with countertrade deals to offset a trade deficit with Britain which increased following the arms deal.

Britain exported £1.5 billion (\$2.4 billion) worth of goods to Saudi Arabia last year while British imports from that country in the same period totalled £436 million (\$693 million).

Saudi Arabia may buy £1 billion (\$1.6 billion) worth of submarines from Britain if agreement on countertrade can be reached, officials said.

They said Nazer may repeat requests by Saudi Arabia for Britain to curb its production of North Sea oil to assist in stabilising the oil price. But Walker is expected to reiterate the government's policy of not interfering in oil companies' production.

## Development bank meeting ends with issues unresolved

MIAMI (Agencies) — A three-day meeting of major international lending institution has ended, leaving unresolved such key issues as Brazil's debt moratorium and a U.S. bid for virtual veto power over the bank's operations.

Some 3,000 people attended the annual meeting of the International Development Bank (IDB) in the hope that anger over Brazil's suspension of interest payments could be defused and a way found to meet U.S. demands for more control over the bank's purse strings.

They left disappointed on both counts, setting the stage for a showdown at a meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington on April 6.

Washington, the largest contributor to the bank, which has lent \$35 billion since its founding in 1959, holds a 34.5 per cent voting stake and wants increased powers over lending decisions.

U.S. officials, complaining the bank loans money too leniently, proposed lowering the veto power to 35 per cent, a move firmly resisted by Latin American countries, which together hold 54.2 per cent.

"The contributors of the preponderance of the bank's useable resources should be able to assure their governments that their contributions are being used effectively," W. Allen Wallis, U.S. undersecretary of state for economic affairs, told the closing session Wednesday.

But the United States found itself in virtual isolation, with even Western allies arguing that the IDB should not be turned into a U.S. leading vehicle.

A 35 per cent veto, which could be sustained if just one other of the IDB's 12 executive directors voted with the United States, would "undermine the multilateral

system of the bank," said the report.

In Mexico City, President Alan García of Peru and President Miguel De La Madrid of Mexico said Thursday that the Latin American foreign debt crisis stems from a unjust international economic system.

A joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of García's three-day visit said the debt problem "calls for national decisions, international solutions in the long term and a political dialogue of debtors and creditors within effective co-responsibility."

The two presidents also said that "the independence and sovereignty of all our nations are at risk in Central America."

The joint presidential communiqué said "the burden of the foreign debt is one of the principal obstacles for the growth of the countries of Latin America."

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices appeared to be heading for record closing levels after further consideration of the latest opinion poll and the implications of Thursday's better than expected U.K. February trade figures, dealers said.

However, currency considerations reflected in an easier government bond market and a mixed opening on Wall Street took the edge off a mid-morning push towards record territory. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was 15.1 up at 2,052.9, just 3.3 points short of its record closing of 2,056.2 achieved on March 24. Earlier the market had been unsettled by news Fisons plans to raise £110 million through an international share placing.

The latest opinion poll published in the Daily Telegraph newspaper unsettled the market with its finding that the centrist Liberal-SDP alliance party had moved ahead of the main opposition Labour Party, apparently pointing to a hung parliament and upsetting the prospect of an early election.

A more considered view on the poll revealed the ruling Conservative Party would retain a working majority and helped prices move ahead, dealers said.

BP's offer on Thursday for the remaining 45 per cent of Standard Oil it does not own was further viewed as a healthy endorsement of the latest confederation of British and industry survey.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One sterling	1.6033/63	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3061/66	Canadian dollar
	1.8227/37	West German marks
	2.0580/90	Dutch guilders
	1.5195/5205	Swiss francs
	37.72/75	Belgian francs
	6.0625/75	French francs
	1298/1302	Italian lire
	147.95/148.05	Japanese yen
	6.3600/50	Swedish kronas
	6.8600/50	Norwegian kronas
	6.8650/8700	Danish kronas
One ounce of gold	415.60/416.10	U.S. dollars

## Horoscope and Crosswords not received

## Soviet economic growth doubled under Gorbachev, says U.S. report

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet economy has grown at twice the average rate of the previous 10 years under new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, but his goals may be too ambitious, according to a report from U.S. intelligence agencies.

The report was prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Intelligence Agency for the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, which released it Friday.

It said the Soviet economy grew 4.2 per cent in 1986, Gorbachev's first full year in power, twice the average annual growth over the previous decade.

Gorbachev's policies to improve worker attitudes, remove incompetent officials, reduce corruption and alcoholism and modernise the country's industrial equipment accounted for some of the gains, the report said.

"Although many of the specific policies Gorbachev has adopted are not new, the intensity Gorbachev has brought to his efforts and his apparent commitment to finding long-term solutions are attributes that his immediate predecessors lacked. Nonetheless, Gorbachev's programme appears to be ambitious on a number of counts," the report said.

Earlier this week, two U.S. bank's leading actually declined slightly last year, even though U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker had called for it to play a greater role in support of his Third World debt strategy.

A compromise was being explored, and officials expressed hope it would be reached at the IMF meeting next month.

Bankers said a new confrontation with Brazil could be shaping up about the same time, because the country will need to ask banks for an extension of \$9.5 billion in debt by April 15.

Peru, Mexico charge debt crisis result of unjust system

In Mexico City, President Alan García of Peru and President Miguel De La Madrid of Mexico said Thursday that the Latin American foreign debt crisis stems from a unjust international economic system.

A joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of García's three-day visit said the debt problem "calls for national decisions, international solutions in the long term and a political dialogue of debtors and creditors within effective co-responsibility."

The two presidents also said that "the independence and sovereignty of all our nations are at risk in Central America."

The joint presidential communiqué said "the burden of the foreign debt is one of the principal obstacles for the growth of the countries of Latin America."

Chaysson, responsible for EC Mediterranean relations, bad talks with President Spyros Kyprianou and Foreign Minister George Iacovou. He did not say when negotiations would be concluded.

"I think it is important, I would even say imperative, that we should finish the negotiations (for a customs union) as soon as possible," Chaysson declared.

He was talking to newsmen at the presidential palace after a 45-minute meeting with President Kyprianou on Thursday.

Chaysson said the negotiations were entering their final stage, but he could not say when they would conclude.

**Meetings in Lebanon**

In Beirut, Chaysson met with Lebanese leaders Thursday on aid to war-torn Lebanon. Chaysson flew into Christian east Beirut on Thursday morning.

During his stay in Lebanon, Chaysson met twice with President Amine Gemayel at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

Chaysson, a former French foreign minister, crossed the five-kilometre (three-mile) dividing green line and discussed aid to Lebanon with Prime Minister Rashid Karameh after ending the first round of talks with Gemayel.

"We can help a country to progress... naturally in exceptional circumstances we provide exceptional aid," Chaysson told reporters after a one-hour meeting with Karameh at his office in Muslim west Beirut.

Chaysson did not elaborate. But his reference to "political grounds" was seen locally as a reference to the unofficial partition of the island resulting from the Turkish invasion and occupation.

The result of the negotiations with Cyprus would be that the east Mediterranean island will be "the only country with which we will have entered into a special relationship, I mean a customs union that does not exist with anyone else," Chaysson added.

"I think it very proper this agreement should exist with Cyprus. We must be able to finish the negotiations soon on political grounds," he said.

Chaysson said his visit to Lebanon "has been decided since President Gemayel visited the EC

headquarters in Brussels" Feb. 13.

There is a prevalent feeling in Cyprus that the customs union with the EC would eventually lead to full membership and thus facilitate the island's reunification.

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# Macao residents react favourably to China-Portugal agreement

**MACAO (AP)** — Residents crowded around television sets and read special newspaper editions to learn details of the agreement announced Thursday that will return this tiny Portuguese enclave to Chinese rule.

Many of Macao's 450,000 residents watched the 11 a.m. (0300 GMT) live broadcast of the Peking ceremony in which Portuguese and Chinese officials installed the agreement that will make Macao a special administrative region of China on Dec. 20, 1999. Appliance stores were crowded with people watching television to the ceremony.

In general, residents reacted favourably to the agreement.

Two of Macao's six Chinese-language newspapers ran afternoon extras with the agreement's full text. The 50,000 special edi-

tions of the Va Kio paper included both the Chinese and Portuguese texts.

The agreement is based on a policy of "one country, two systems." Macao's people are to retain their basic freedoms and economic system for 50 years after Portuguese administration ends in this 16 square-kilometre territory on the South China coast.

Although there was no mention of gambling, a major source of tax revenue for Macao, the joint declaration implied that Peking will not interfere with the operation of casinos.

## Remains of U.S. jet crew recovered from wreckage

**MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, California (R)** — The remains of entertainer Dean Martin's eldest son and another Air National Guard officer were removed from the charred wreckage of their Phantom jet fighter.

Captain Dean Paul Martin, 35, an actor who piloted the jet, and Captain Ramon Ortiz, 39, a Las Vegas banker, were killed on impact last Saturday when their F4-C Phantom slammed into the

side of a mountain.

The oldest of Dean Martin's three children by a former wife, Jeanne, Dean Paul Martin had been a professional tennis player, a pilot, a television actor and a musician.

There was no comment from Martin's father, the 69-year-old singer and actor, who received word of the grim discovery at his Beverly Hills home, according to publicist Warren Cowan.

## More spy charges brought against U.S. Marine guard

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Marine Corps has brought additional charges against the first of two Marine security guards arrested on suspicion of spying while working at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, Defense Department sources have said.

The sources, who agreed to discuss the matter only if not named, said the decision to add five additional charges to the 19 counts already pending against

Sgt. Clayton J. Lonetree had been prompted by the recent arrest of another guard and former Lonetree colleague, Cpl. Arnold Bracy.

The sources declined to discuss the specific allegations underlying the new charges. But they said the charges included another count of espionage; and two counts of "espionage-related" general misconduct charges.

## Former U.S. secretary pleads guilty to tax evasion

**NEW YORK (R)** — Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson, whom Dwight Eisenhower once said deserved to be president, has pleaded guilty to income tax evasion charges and illegally running an offshore bank.

Mr. Anderson, declaring that he was "deeply regretful," admit-

ted to evading taxes on \$127,500 of undeclared income.

Much of the money was paid to him for lobbying for controversial South Korean Evangelist Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

The 77-year-old Anderson was President Eisenhower's treasury secretary from 1957 to 1961.

## Thatcher visits Moscow today

**LONDON (R)** — British Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flies to Moscow on Saturday with the insult fired at her 11 years ago in the official Soviet media — "the iron lady" — now virtually a hallowed title.

Britain's first woman prime minister has made toughness her hallmark. Her supporters say she has lived up to, benefited from and even sharpened the iron-clad image with which she was branded by the Soviet armed forces newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda*.

As she enters her ninth year in office on May 4 and prepares for elections she hopes will secure a record third consecutive term, Mrs. Thatcher has acquired a stature at home and abroad that puts her virtually in a league of her own.

She has been in power longer than any other elected Western government leader and has ruled Britain without a break for longer than any Conservative prime minister since the Earl of Liverpool notched up just under 15 years from 1812 to 1827.

## Bishop bans bodies of IRA men from churches

**BELFAST (R)** — A Catholic bishop in Northern Ireland has banned the bodies of dead Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas from churches in his diocese and denounced members of the banned organisation as murderers and terrorists.

The unprecedent ban was announced by Dr. Edward Daly, Bishop of Londonderry, 112 kilometres north of Belfast,

entry, West was forced to hold up, and he did so again when declarer continued with a club to the queen. A successful heart finesse reduced the hand to this interesting position:

NORTH  
♦ A K 2  
♦ A Q J 5  
♦ K 7 2  
♦ K J 4  
WEST EAST  
♦ 10 9 6 5 ♦ Q 4 3  
♦ 4 2 ♦ K 10 7 3  
♦ 9 8 ♦ A 10 5  
♦ A 9 8 3 ♦ 10 6 2  
SOUTH  
♦ A K 2  
♦ A Q J 5  
♦ K 7 2  
♦ K J 4  
WEST EAST  
♦ 9 8 6 5 ♦ 4 2  
♦ 2 ♦ K 10 7  
♦ — ♦ A  
♦ A 9 ♦ 10  
SOUTH  
♦ A 2  
♦ A Q J 5  
♦ K 7  
♦ J

The first six tricks were in the bank, and declarer found a pretty way to take three more. He exited with the jack of clubs to West's ace. The declarer did the best he could this time it was declarer's turn to hold up. On the nine of clubs East discarded a spade, but when West reverted to a spade East was forced to part with a heart. Declarer took his ace of spades and threw East in with the ace of diamonds to force a heart return. The marked finesse produced the ninth trick.

One reason for a holdup play is to try to shut out the opponents' suit. Another is to try to get a signal from partner on the key card. East was shooting for both these, but got burned in the attempt.

Faced with an unrevealing auction, West led the ten of spades, covered by the jack and queen and won with the ace. Declarer led a diamond to the jack and continued with another to the king as East, afraid that winning the diamond ace too early would give declarer nine tricks, held up for two rounds.

New declarer switched his atten-

tions of the Va Kio paper included both the Chinese and Portuguese texts.

The agreement is based on a policy of "one country, two systems." Macao's people are to retain their basic freedoms and economic system for 50 years after Portuguese administration ends in this 16 square-kilometre territory on the South China coast.

The settlement of the nationality question was a major reason some people found the agreement acceptable.

"The agreement is satisfactory," said Caro Assumpao, chairman of the Legislative Assembly and a leader of the Macanese community, or people of Portuguese heritage born in the territory.

Macao has been a Portuguese enclave since 1557, but 97 per cent of its people are Chinese.

It takes into account ... the aspirations and the needs of Macao population," he said.

Assembly member Alexander

Ho said the territory's Chinese, Portuguese and Macanese "should have more dialogue to prevent any misunderstanding and to build up a bright future for Macao."

Mr. Ho has urged a greater effort by the government to bring about "localisation," or the placement of Chinese in top government positions, which now are dominated by Portuguese and Macanese.

Last week, the government sent 20 local Chinese to Lisbon for a year's training in Portuguese and civil administration as part of a new programme to meet such demands.

Macao has been a Portuguese enclave since 1557, but 97 per cent of its people are Chinese.

## Missile deal hinges on Shultz-Shevardnadze talks

**GENEVA (Agencies)** — U.S. and Sov. arms negotiators have failed to resolve problems blocking a deal to slash medium-range nuclear missile arsenals, leaving a tough bargaining ahead for their foreign ministers at next month's Moscow meeting.

"Difficult issues remain before us," the senior American negotiator on medium-range missiles, Maynard Gitman, said after a special session of talks ended on Thursday. "Substantive issues need to be resolved."

Soviet negotiator Alexei Obukhov blamed the slow pace on "efforts by the U.S. side to raise new problems, to expand the scope of issues under discussion."

The superpowers have agreed to a rough outline to scrap medium-range forces in Europe — 270 triple-warhead Soviet SS-20s and 316 single-warhead American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

They would limit such weapons to 100 warheads held on their national territory, with the 33 Soviet missiles confined to the Asian region of the country.

But what appeared to be an arms control breakthrough when both sides accepted the basic elements of a pact earlier this month has dissolved into a dispute over Soviet superiority in shorter-range missiles in Europe.

Mr. Gitman told reporters the United States would insist that limits on the shorter-range missiles be "an integral part" of a medium-range treaty.

The United States wants Moscow to freeze such missiles at present levels, estimated by Washington at more than 150, and for the Americans to have the right to match this figure.

In Moscow, the chief of the Foreign Ministry's disarmament department, Viktor Karpov, accused the United States of raising artificial obstacles and "backtracking" on medium-range forces.

He is executive director of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, in 1965, the year the agency received its first Nobel Prize, and remained with it for 14 years.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Eve Curie, the youngest daughter of the famed scientists Pierre and Marie Curie, a daughter and four grandchil-

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## Salvaging of capsized ferry moves forward

**ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (AP)** — Preparations to right a capsized British ferry off the North Sea port of Zeebrugge moved forward as salvagers took advantage of calm, sunny weather, officials said.

"Salvagers are making good time. They are ahead of schedule," said Richard Mills, a spokesman for Townsend Thoresen, owner of the 7,951-tonne *Herald of Free Enterprise*. The vessel capsized on March 6 with 435 people aboard.

Mills said workers have welded a 50-metre cantilever brace to the ship's exposed starboard side and laid 10 anchors to keep the ferry in place during the righting.

The cantilever brace must keep the cables with which two pontoons will raise the ferry, from damaging the hull.

The pontoons will raise the ferry by 32 cables. On Thursday, Mills said, salvagers were installing the second set of four pulling cables.

## Former UNICEF head dies

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Henry Labouisse, who helped to set up the Marshall Plan in Europe and was the head of UNICEF when the agency received a Nobel Prize, died Wednesday night in a New York hospital.

He became executive director of UNICEF, the U.N. Children's Fund, in 1965, the year the agency received its first Nobel Prize, and remained with it for 14 years.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Eve Curie, the youngest daughter of the famed scientists Pierre and Marie Curie, a daughter and four grandchil-

dren.

After service with the World Bank and again with the United Nations, this time in the Congo, he was appointed by U.S. President John Kennedy to lead the International Cooperation Administration in 1961, the forerunner of aid.

He was 83 years old and had been suffering from cancer for some time.

Born in New Orleans, Mr. Labouisse was named chief of the Marshall Plan in Paris in 1953 and a year later took over as director of the U.N. Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees, a post he held until 1958.

The rifles used in the hostage drama were stolen in an attack on the town of San Marcos, just outside San Salvador, on Monday, Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said.

He said the incident at the school was a terrorist act which showed the desperation of the rebels.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the main guerrilla group in El Salvador, denied any involvement in the hostage taking, although it has pledged to step up actions in San Salvador this year.

Mr. Acevedo told journalists

the G-3 rifles used in the incident had been seized by guerrillas who clashed with civil defence militiamen in San Marcos. Two militiamen were killed in the fighting.

Mr. Acevedo said the rifles, FMLN pamphlets found near the school, proved the hostage incident was carried out by the guerrillas.

"The FMLN has shown its frustration at its inability to achieve its object of seizing power," he said.

In Wednesday's drama, an army deserter and a woman burst into a school in the poor San Jacinto district and held the 947 and 27 teachers hostage for several hours.

Some of the children escaped through a window and the others were released before the couple surrendered.

## Salvadorean couple free school hostages, surrender

**SAN SALVADOR (R)** — A couple who held almost 1,000 children and teachers hostage in a San Salvador school took part in a leftist guerrilla raid a few days earlier, the government has said.

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